



The Voice

Lucas County Juvenile Court CASA and CRB Departments

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

The CASA and CRB programs are blessed to have 200 volunteers diverse in race, religion, and ethnicity. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, Eid or something else, I hope your holidays are filled with the laughter of family and friends and joy in knowing that you have chosen to give others the most valuable gift of all—yourselves.

The Judges and Magistrates thank you for lending them your eyes and ears and for the wisdom of your recommendations; Anita, Judy and I thank you for sharing the wonders and woes of your cases, for your dedication and devotion, your kindness and support, your sleepless nights and for the gift of knowing each one of you. ShaDonna thanks you for reports sent on time; Sue thanks you for the kindness you show and your caring hearts; Karen thanks you for your smiling faces and practical jokes; Pattie thanks you for making work feel like family. But most importantly, the children you serve so well thank you for giving them a chance to heal and a chance to hope for a happy future in a permanent, loving home.

Happy Holidays!

Carol



CRB Volunteers Enjoy a Holiday Lunch

It's a Wrap . . .

The year-end Voice is devoted to important “★ Stuff” you’ll want to know!

★ Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank

The Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank is a non-profit organization that provides furniture and household items at no cost to low-income residents of Lucas County who are “starting out” or “starting over.” This is a one-time-only benefit. Clients **MUST** be referred by a caseworker from a social service agency. Clients may not call on their own behalf. For questions or to donate gently used furniture, please call 419-691-2131.

The 24th Annual National CASA Conference “Growing A Better Tomorrow For Every Child”

Saturday, April 16-Tuesday April 19
Atlanta - 2005

★ How to CALL-BLOCK

When you need to call a client and do NOT want them to know your phone number (land line or cell). Here is a simple way to prevent the number from being displayed.

1. Before dialing the number: Dial *67
2. Wait for a dial tone
3. Dial the phone number

This process will block your phone number. When you make your next call, you will need to repeat steps 1-3 again in order to block your number. Please note some companies charge for this service, so you may want to check.



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★ New Books In CASA/CRB Library

The feature book is titled, Children of Alcoholics by Windle Searles. Written by seasoned researchers, they focus on developmental issues and life-span perspectives. Four other new books are:

1. Giant Steps Therapeutic innovations in child mental health by L. Combrinck-Graham
2. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome A guide for families and communities by Ann Streissguth
3. The Shaken Baby Syndrome A multi-disciplinary approach by S. Lazoritz, M.D. & V.J. Palusci, M.D.
4. When Something Feels Wrong A survival guide about abuse for young people by D. Pledge, Ph.D.

★ Dating BRUISES Based on Color

Toledo area child abuse expert Randy Schleivert, M.D. recently held a CASA/CRB training. He explained the following:

- Bruises generally go through predictable color changes in adults
- Color changes are unpredictable in children; you cannot accurately date bruises based on color in children
- A yellow-brown bruise is usually 1-2 days old in a child, but that is not always the case.

★ The Gossip Line



CASA/GAL secretary ShaDonna Holston and husband, Joe, are expecting a baby. He or she is due June 24th. The whole office is excited about “our” new baby. Congratulations Mom and Dad!

★ ONLY PATTIE . . .

An October E-mail to CASA/CRB Staff:

“Do you think that someone with the first name “Patience” should be jailed for domestic violence and aggravated menacing?”



★ Casey Family Programs Senior Year Scholarships Now Available

(Source: National CASA “Update- Oct. ’04)

The Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) is one of the country’s leading advocates for older foster youth that awards well over \$1 million annually in scholarships to students in post-secondary programs nationwide.

OFA is proud to announce the new CASEY Family Program Senior Year Scholarship for young men of color in college and vocational training programs. OFA asks for assistance in reaching out about this opportunity to young men of color, who are currently in their final year of college or a technical program, and who can verify their status as having aged out of the US foster care system. OFA can offer up to \$5000 towards unmet tuition need or outstanding student loans on a one-time, first-come, first-served basis. For more info contact: 571-203-0270 or e-mail: scholarship@orphan.org

★ News From LCCS

Per Jackie Brown, LCCS has lowered the age for Independent Living services from sixteen (16) years to fifteen (15) years of age.



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★ Obtaining/Reading LCCS Records

The LCCS Records department assures us that there is always someone available to help a CASA/GAL trying to obtain a case file to read. Protocol outlined in the CASA/GAL Training Manual states that a telephone call to Karen Keaton (213-3610) is the first step. You should be able to read the file in 2-3 days. If Karen is not available, Heidi Middlebrooks (213-3467) is her backup. If Karen or Heidi are not available, Jodi Helvoigt (213-3418) can assist you. If these options fail, CASAs should contact Carol, Anita or Judy at the CASA Office (419-213-6753).

Quote-Of-The-Month

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

★ If You Have A Problem . . .

If you are having difficulty with a caseworker (their policy is to return phone calls within 24 hours), try to resolve the issue with that person. If that does not help, the CASA should contact the CW's supervisor (telephone # is listed on your case DATA Sheet). If the problem remains unresolved, please contact CASA staff attorney, Anita Levin (213-6753) for assistance. The CASA Office will work with you to resolve your concern and/or take appropriate action. Please do not go beyond the LCCS supervisor without notification of the CASA administrative staff. We're here to help!

★ CASA/CRB Advisory Board Gives Holiday Thank-You Luncheon For Volunteers - December 10, 2005



CASA Mary James; Advisory Board member Marsha Molnar & CASA Karen Dubose enjoy the CASA CHAT Holiday Luncheon

★ A New Service for CASA Teens

LCCS has joined with Big Brothers Big Sisters to offer mentoring for kids ages 13-17 placed in foster or kinship care or who have been recently reunified with family. Mentors are matched one-to-one with a child and spend an average of 3-5 hours per week with their matched "Little." Tutorial services are provided including homework assistance and proficiency test preparation. Talk to your caseworker if you have a CASA child who might benefit from this program.

★ HO HO HO

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes



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★ **CASA's 25th Anniversary Project Playhouse: Chances For Children**

25th Anniversary Project Needs YOUR Help!

by Barbara VanVleet, Board Member

As you may know, next year (2005) is Lucas County CASA's 25th anniversary. In celebration of this hallmark year, we are planning a fundraising project with the help of a number of community partners. Several builders and others have agreed to build custom child playhouses for Lucas County CASA for which we will sell raffle tickets. Additionally we will ask individuals, organizations, small businesses and corporations to be sponsors, with different levels of sponsorship available.

Even though we don't have the event dates and particulars just yet, we would *greatly* appreciate your assistance! We are creating a large sponsor list that we will solicit for project sponsors and would very much like your suggestions: friends, family, co-workers, colleagues, neighbors, members of other organizations to which you belong, managers and owners of businesses that you frequent—including doctors, lawyers, accountants, teachers, jewelers, hair stylists, bakers, florists, lawn services, dry cleaners, etc.

Some on the list will receive mailings, while others also may be personally contacted. You might want to give us names, but request that you'd like to make the approach yourself. Or, you might want us to mail the request indicating that someone they know (you!) is a CASA! We can use all the suggestions of sponsors that you can provide.

A committee of individuals, chaired by CASA Nancy Zychowicz, has generously pledged their time and skills. They meet regularly to develop the project, the genesis of which began with National CASA with variations on the child playhouse theme



CASA Project Playhouse

"Chances For Children"

subsequently having been done by several CASA organizations nationwide.

Please send your suggestions by January 15, 2005 to Wendy Keener: mwkeenerosu@aol.com or 419-867-8979.

We're working hard to make this project a resounding success! CASA and CRB volunteers are an amazing group of people! Thank you in advance for any help you can provide!

Stay tuned for more details in *The Voice* about this important effort!

WEBSITE-OF-THE-MONTH



www.whatgoesaround.org

Celebrating a special event, but don't want gifts? This unique site tells friends what charities you'd like them to support in lieu of a gift to you!